

M I D D L E E A S T A N D S O U T H A S I A R E V I E W

18 JUNE 1982

Israeli Invasion of Lebanon

Beirut Political, Military Situation -- The Israeli Cabinet has displayed a "clear inclination" to accept a request by U.S. envoy Philip Habib for a 48-hour cease-fire in Beirut in order for quiet negotiations to be conducted with Lebanese authorities -- and "indirectly with the PLO" -- for a temporary arrangement that would allow the cease-fire to stabilize, Jerusalem television reported. It added, however, that no new resolution on a cease-fire was officially announced by the Cabinet. The television reported that Habib believes it is possible to disarm the PLO as part of a new political arrangement which the United States will initiate in the next few days or weeks.

In response to a message from Secretary of State Alexander Haig that Israel use its influence on the Lebanese Christians so they will halt activities against the "terrorists," the Israeli Cabinet declared that Israel is not responsible for the actions of the Christians, Jerusalem radio reported. The radio added that the Cabinet also said it has not given the United States the go-ahead to conduct negotiations with the PLO.

In a statement carried by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, PLO Executive Committee chairman Yasir 'Arafat declared that the battle for Beirut is just beginning. He added that Beirut will become the Arab "Stalingrad." 'Arafat asserted that "despite the negligence of some and the hesitation of others, which is paralyzing the decision of the Arab nation" the sacrifices which have been made will not be in vain. He then declared that it is his right to ask the reason for the "hesitation and negligence" in mobilizing the resources of the Arab nation.

A source at the Joint Forces Command cited by Voice of Palestine radio said the Israeli Cabinet knows very well that no one can divest the joint Lebanese national and Palestinian forces of their arms. Jerusalem television cited diplomatic sources in Beirut as saying 'Arafat had turned down a Soviet offer to evacuate him and other PLO leaders from Beirut aboard a Soviet ship.

Meanwhile, Monte Carlo radio cited a press agency report claiming Syrian authorities had turned down a request by Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis to withdraw the Arab Deterrent Forces from Beirut and its suburbs.

In other developments Voice of Lebanon radio reported on 18 June that the 48-hour cease-fire has been violated more than once. The radio noted that intermittent artillery shelling has been going on throughout the morning of 18 June in the Beirut area and said that heavy guns on land and at sea are being used in the shelling. However, the IDF spokesman denied that Israeli forces are participating in any fighting in Beirut and stressed that the IDF is not involved in these incidents, Jerusalem radio reported.

Lebanese Contacts -- Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt asked for guarantees that Beirut will not be overrun and for an expansion of the National Salvation Council during a meeting with President Ilyas Sarkis, Beirut radio reported. Following his talks, Junblatt told AFP he is continuing to refuse to serve on the council in its present form. He said the council does not represent all political points of view. Junblatt particularly objected to the inclusion of Lebanese Front Military Commander Bashir al-Jumayyil as the sole representative of the Maronite-Christian community, AFP reported.

Begin Remarks -- Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin declared at a speech in New York that the IDF will evacuate Lebanon within a few weeks, but he noted that a primary condition for the evacuation is the establishment of an independent government in Lebanon, IDF radio reported. According to a subsequent Jerusalem radio report, Begin said Israel wants good relations with an independent and free Lebanon, without Syrian forces or "terrorists" on its soil. Begin also cautioned that Israel will not give in to pressure by friends on the matter of Lebanon, the radio reported.

Casualty, Prisoner Statistics -- In a message to the UN secretary general, Yasir 'Arafat estimated that Lebanese and Palestinian civilian losses have so far amounted to 30,000 killed or wounded, 10,000 missing and 800,000 homeless, Voice of Palestine radio reported.

According to an announcement by the head of the IDF Manpower Branch broadcast by Jerusalem radio, IDF losses as of 15 June are: 214 dead, 1,114 wounded, 23 missing and 1 captured. In another radio report the IDF said it is detaining 5,000 "terrorists," including nationals from Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria and Kuwait.

Syria on Volunteers, Ba'th Meeting -- Syria welcomes Arab volunteers from any Arab country who would like to participate in fighting alongside their Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese brothers in Lebanon, Damascus radio reported. Earlier, the radio said the Ba'th Party Regional Command had met in Damascus to discuss military and political developments in Lebanon.

Al-Qadhdhafi Message -- In a message to Arab leaders carried by Voice of Arab Homeland radio, Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi warned that if an Arab summit is not immediately convened on the Lebanese situation, Libya "will not be bound by any ties with you anymore" and will not hesitate to take "any action that would push you and entangle you."

PLO

A high-ranking PLO official in Italy was killed in Rome when his boobytrapped car exploded, according to the Italian news agency ANSA. The PLO office in Italy later released a note linking the killing with "Begin's terrorists," ANSA subsequently reported.

Syrian-Iranian Relations

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Defense Minister Salimi arrived in Damascus at the head of a "high-ranking political-military delegation," Tehran radio reported. Salimi and Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas held talks on mutual cooperation between the two countries, while Velayati and the Amal movement's deputy director discussed "Zionist aggression" against Lebanon and Iranian assistance to and cooperation with the Amal movement, the radio added.

Iran

Ahmad Khomeyni, son of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, was injured during a clash with members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq on 15 June, AFP reported citing a communique by the leftist group. A 15 June AFP report cited KEYHAN as saying that unknown gunmen had opened fire on Ahmad Khomeyni's car but added that Khomeyni was not in the car at the time of the attack.

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INDIANS DEMONSTRATE OUTSIDE U.S. EMBASSY

BK171605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Jun 82

[Text] All-India Kaumi Aikta [National Solidarity Committee] staged a demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi today protesting against the Israeli aggression [in Lebanon].

The council of the Arab ambassadors in New Delhi has expressed its appreciation of the firm stand taken by the Indian Government on the Israeli invasion. It has also praised the special attention given to the question by Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi.

VENKATARAMAN COMMENTS ON PAKISTAN, KASHMIR

BK131616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Jun 82

[Text] Defense Minister Venkataraman has said India will consider Pakistan's proposal of a no-war pact on its own merit. Speaking to newsmen at Calcutta airport on his way back from a tour of northeastern states, he said India's policy is to maintain peace and friendly relations with all neighboring countries.

In reply to a question as to whether he apprehended any conflict with Pakistan while that country is showing some interest in the no-war pact with India, Venkataraman said we cannot take anything for granted. We must always be alert. India, he said, will never be the first to provoke or create an atmosphere of conflict but we will take necessary precautionary steps.

Replying to another question on Kashmir, the defense minister said Kashmir is an integral part of India.

About President Zia's claim that Gilgit and some other areas of Jammu and Kashmir originally formed part of Pakistan, Venkataraman asserted that India will never accept it.

About disturbances in northeastern states, the minister said the incidents are sporadic and not continuous. He did not expect any large-scale disturbances in the region.

Venkataraman said that the morale of the jawans [soldiers] and officers in forward areas is very high.

HIDAYATULLAH RETURNS FROM SAUDI ARABIA

BK160802 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 16 Jun 82

[Text] Vice President Hidayatullah returned to New Delhi today from Riyadh. Hidayatullah went to Saudi Arabia to convey the condolence of the government and the people of India to King Fahd on the sad demise of the late King Khalid of Saudi Arabia.

HIDAYATULLAH PROPOSED AS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

BK171247 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Jun 82

[Text] Ten opposition leaders have suggested to Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi the name of Vice President M. Hidayatullah as the consensus candidate for the presidentship. The suggestion was contained in the letter which they sent to Mrs Gandhi on Tuesday [15 June]. The text of the letter was made available to the press today. The letter also stated that if the prime minister has some other name in mind it can be discussed.

The letter was signed by Charan Singh, Jagjivan Ram, Atal Bihar Vajpayee, E.M.S. Namboodiripad, (Indardip Sinha), Dr Sarojini Mahishi, H.N. Bahuguna, Prakash Singh Badal, Mrs Ambika Soni and Chitta Basu.

Gandhi Replies

BK180348 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Jun 82

[Text] The prime minister has informed opposition leaders that she will place before the Congress-I parliamentary board their views on the issue of presidential candidates. According to Press Trust of India, Mrs Gandhi said this in her reply to the joint letter of 10 opposition leaders. She said it would be hardly fair to propagate the view that only nonparty candidates can be nonpartisan. She pointed out that in the past party nominees had proved themselves to be distinguished presidents.

LEADER OF LIN BIAO NAXALITES, OTHERS ARRESTED

BK171235 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 12 Jun 82 p 1

[Excerpts] Nisith Bhattacharya, 35-year-old former lecturer of Bangabasi College and leader of the Lin Biao group of Naxalites in West Bengal, was arrested along with six other members of his group in Sian District, Bihar, early on May 27. A rifle snatched by Naxalites from the Korchpukur police camp in South 24-Parganas last year, was found in their possession.

Gora Bhattacharya, wanted in connection with the murder of Tarapada Basu, a criminal investigation department officer, at Ariadaha in 24-Parganas, about 6 months ago, was among the seven arrested by the Bihar police.

The West Bengal police were informed of this by the Bihar police on June 3. The Bihar police made further inquiries and two other Naxalites were held subsequently.

Azizul Haque, the other leader of the Lin Biao group, was not among the arrested.

Nisith Bhattacharya, who escaped from the presidency jail in Calcutta in 1974 and was arrested again in 1976, was freed in 1977, when the first left front ministry came to power in West Bengal. Bhattacharya and Haque set up the second central committee of the revolutionary government of the CPI-ML in North Bengal and border districts of Bihar.

The second central committee has been active, particularly in West Dinajput, Malda, Cooch Behar in North Bengal and Nadia and 24-Parganas in South Bengal. It was allegedly involved in a number of gun-snatching incidents in several areas of these districts. Its members were allegedly involved in the murders of three constables in Purbasthali police camp in Burdwan, from where a number of rifles were snatched.

Recently, they kidnapped two Janata Party candidates including Kashi Kanta Maitra, a few days before the May 19 assembly elections. They were held hostage and Naxalites demanded the release of about 500 imprisoned party workers. They terrorized voters in Saktinagar.

The Lin Biao group called for a poll boycott in Nadia. On Thursday [10 June], they looted a gun from a house in Hanskhali in Nadia. Three persons were arrested.

BRIEFS

NEW ELECTION COMMISSIONER -- R.K. Trivedi has been appointed chief election commissioner. He will take over from S.L. Shakhder who retires on 18 June. Trivedi is at present central vigilance commissioner. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Jun 82 BK]

U.S. INFORMED OF PAKISTANI CONCERN OVER LEBANON

BK171622 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Jun 82

[Text] The secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the U.S. charge d'affaires to the Foreign Office in Islamabad today and informed him of Pakistan's concern over the fast-deteriorating situation in Lebanon. Pakistan has also asked its ambassador in Washington to apprise the United States of Pakistan's concern.

Radio Pakistan's diplomatic correspondent says that Pakistan has expressed deep anxiety over Israel's unprovoked, barbarous aggression against Lebanon. An extremely serious situation has been created due to the Israeli siege of Beirut and the reported Israeli plan to wipe out the Palestinians and their Lebanese allies.

Pakistan feels that Israel's failure to stop this series of murder and aggression in Lebanon and immediately withdraw its troops will create serious dangers to the peace and security of the entire region.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has already expressed Pakistan's full support to the Palestinians during this grave, critical juncture. Reports reaching Islamabad reveal that the situation in Beirut has turned extremely serious, naturally creating deep concern and anxiety in Pakistan and other Islamic countries.

Two aircraft have left Islamabad with relief materials to help the fraternal Palestinians during the present difficult times. These include blankets, tents, clothes, medicine, rice, tea and sugar. Further relief materials are expected to be dispatched soon. Medical teams are being formed to look after the wounded Palestinian residents which will leave shortly.

On the way back, these aircraft will take back the Pakistanis who have arrived in Damascus from Lebanon.

Pakistan is sending relief materials worth 15 million rupees for the Palestinian victims of Israel's inhuman action. These include 3,000 tons of rice, 500 tons of sugar, tents, blankets, clothes and medicine.

The Government of Pakistan will also bear the air transportation costs of the Palestinians living in Pakistan numbering about 250 and those who want to return home to join the war to Damascus from Pakistan. The Radio Pakistan correspondent added that Pakistan will continue to provide every possible assistance to the Palestinians. The Pakistani Red Crescent Society and generous people are also collecting relief materials and donations and they will be sent to Damascus as soon as they are collected.

Pakistan has asked for the requirements from Damascus and PLO so that these are met as soon as possible.

VELAYATI, SALIMI ON VISIT TO SYRIA 17 JUNE

LD180806 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Jun 82

[Text] According to IRNA, Foreign Minister Velayati and Defense Minister Salimi arrived in Damascus last night at the head of a high-ranking political-military delegation. They were welcomed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam; Maj Gen Hasan al-Turkumani, the head of the Political Directorate of the armed forces; and a number of high-ranking Syrian officials.

According to this report, the minister of defense met with Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas in the residence of the Iranian delegation and discussed cooperation between the two countries.

Also last night, Mr Velayati met with (Abu Hisham), the spokesman and deputy director of the Amal movement, with whom he discussed recent Zionist aggression against Lebanon. Iranian assistance to and cooperation with the Amal movement was also discussed at the meeting, which was also attended by the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus and the commander of the Muhammad Rasul-Allah brigade.

The high-ranking Iranian delegation then went to Zeynabiyah in order to visit the pure shrine of Her Holiness Zeynab, may God's peace be upon her. They were warmly welcomed by the armed forces sent by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian brothers as well by Iraqis and Afghans resident in Syria.

JALLUD: LIBYA PREPARING TO CONFRONT ZIONISTS

LD171046 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 17 Jun 82

[Text] Qom, 17 Jun IRNA -- The visiting Libyan prime minister [title as received] 'Abd as-Salam Jallud met and conferred with the renowned religious scholar Ayatollah Montazeri here on Wednesday. During the meeting, also attended by the Libyan ambassador to Iran, Sa'd Mujbir, the Libyan prime minister hoped that the existing relations of the two Muslim countries would be further expanded.

Ayatollah Montazeri referring to 'Neither Eastern nor Western' policy of Iran, stated that relations with Eastern and Western bloc should not be in a way to damage genuine Islamic policy. He added that at present Islamic progressive countries were being threatened by the Zionist regime and its ever-increasing aggressions. He noted that Islamic countries should, according to their Islamic responsibilities, mobilise all their means to repel this dangerous enemy, instead of sufficing to slogans and sending messages. Referring to his dispatch of Iranian combatants to Al-Quds fronts Ayatollah Montazeri said that despite being involved in war with Saddam, Iran despatched volunteers to confront the Zionist enemy and that Iranian nation and government expected Libya to rush to aid Muslims of southern Lebanon without wasting time. To save Islam and Muslims and Al-Aqsa Mosque was very vital for Muslims.

At the end of the meeting Jallud told IRNA that Libyan nation and government were preparing themselves to confront the usurper Zionists.

The Libyan premier then made a pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Hazrat Maasuma and paid tribute to martyr Mohammad Montazeri by laying a wreath of flowers on his tomb.

VICTORY OVER IRAQ 'MORE IMPORTANT' THAN PALESTINE

LD171800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jun 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the visiting Libyan Revolution Command Council member, Mr A. Jallud, met and conferred this morning with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

The meeting was also attended by Foreign Affairs Minister Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister of State for Executive Affairs Mr Aqazadeh and Libyan People's Bureau Chief in Tehran Mr Sa'd Mujbir.

During this meeting, during which he supported the Iranian Islamic revolution, Mr Jallud said: If your freedom or revolution is threatened, Libya will not stand by only as a witness.

Commenting on the invasion launched by the occupying regime of Jerusalem on Lebanon, Mr Jallud said: The recent aggression by the Zionists in the region -- which is supported by U.S. imperialism, reactionaries and their associate mercenaries -- has no other aim but liquidation of the Islamic revolution and the Palestinians. The Libyan Government considers the liberation of Palestine as its main task. He added: The liberation of Palestine will require the effort of the Iranian, the Libyan and all other Islamic nations. Mr Jallud added: In our view, victory over Iraq's Ba'th regime and Saddam, and other Satans, is of more importance than the question of Palestine; in fact such development is a practical step toward liberation of Palestine. In our view the collapse of Saddam's regime can be achieved through an Islamic force originated from the people -- not only from Iran but also from Libya, Palestine, Syria and all other Arab states.

In reply, Mr Khamene'i referred to the Libyan revolution and its approaches, and said: The day our Islamic revolution was victorious, you were among our allies. You neither made terms with the shah nor did you waste a moment in according our Islamic revolution your recognition. We have known you with such feeling toward us ever since.

Commenting on the savage aggression launched by the Zionists on southern Lebanon, Mr Khamene'i said: If the forces which have gone to Lebanon from Iran to fight the Zionist regime were accompanied by your forces, they would be complete. In our dealings with the region's reactionary governments we have never pursued a conservative approach and have not hidden our feelings with regard to the region's reactionary centers. We neither expressed any pleasure in connection with Fahd's coming to power or even accorded him the usual diplomatic courtesies. We have always treated both our friends or our enemies with such sincerity and frankness. God willing, we will continue to do so.

KHAMENE'I, JALLUD ATTEND GUARDS CORPS GRADUATION

LD171446 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jun 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the graduation ceremonies of the 24th and 25th military training courses of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps were held this morning in the presence of President Khamene'i at Imam Hoseyn barracks in Tehran. Also present at these ceremonies, which began with the recitation of some verses from the glorious Koran, were 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the Revolution Command Council of Libya; Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, chairman of the Joint Staff of the armed forces; Colonel Salimi, minister of defense; Aqazadeh, minister of state for executive affairs; Mr Sham'khani, deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; Captain Afzali, commander of the navy; Colonel Hejazi, head of the police; Mr Salem, the commander of the Mobilization units; and a number of national officials, military commanders and commanders of the Islamic revolution guards.

The president and his entourage first received a salute from the military units stationed at the barracks. Then the commander of the 10th District Guards Corps reported on the activities of the Guards Corps against foreign and domestic enemies and the Muslim fighters' confrontation with world arrogance and world-devouring Zionism in southern Lebanon.

He said: By taking military, political and ideological training, our Muslim fighters prepare themselves to support all the oppressed people of the world and to confront world arrogance. He added: Imam Hoseyn barracks, like other training centers, has taken some effective steps in training the fighting forces.

The commander of the 10th District Guards Corps said: So far, about 8,000 of the members of the Islamic revolution guards as well as 14,000 members of the Mobilization units have completed courses at this barracks and have actively participated in the battlefronts of the war between truth and falsehood.

President Khamene'i then delivered a speech referring to the importance and the valuable role of the Guards Corps in implementing, consolidating and continuing the Islamic revolution. He said: So far the Guards Corps has achieved many honors. The growth of this revolutionary organization and this network has angered the infidels. Despite the expectations of the enemies, this consolidation has protected and continued the revolution.

In another part of his speech, while referring to the aggressive acts of the Zionist regime, the president said: Unfortunately, those who should be confronting the inhuman activities and aggression of the regime occupying Jerusalem have not shown any positive reaction. However, our country, even if it is alone in the region, will have no doubt in confronting Zionism and supporting the oppressed people of Lebanon. The revolutionary and progressive countries of the region are also on our side in this important matter.

Mr Khamene'i added: To us there is no difference between the fronts in southern Iran and in southern Lebanon, and the conspiracies of world imperialism and their lackeys in the region against the Islamic revolution of Iran will be neutralized because of the unity between all the strata, the solidarity of the nation, the support of the people for the revolution and for the government and the self-sacrifice of our fighters.

He said: We are prepared to put our facilities and necessary training at the disposal of all Muslims who are prepared to fight against the Zionist regime. We believe that victory will belong to the Muslims and to those who are on the side of truth.

In conclusion, the president thanked the commanders and instructors of the Guards Corps for training believing and brave fighters and emphasized the need for political and ideological training along with military training.

At the end of the ceremonies and march, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, accompanied by Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, inspected the training centers of the Mobilization of the Oppressed units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the war booty that has been seized from the Iraqi aggressors, which is kept on the training field. During the inspection one of the guards commanders briefed the president and Major Jallud.

According to this report, the president, Mr 'Abd as-Salam Jallud and their entourage left Imam Hoseyn barracks at noon. According to the same report, during these ceremonies, some of the brother guards took part in free falls from helicopters and parachute jumps in the presence of those assembled at the barracks.

KHAMENE'I DENOUNCES ISRAELI 'AGGRESSION'

GF170855 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Jun 82

[Text] 'Ali Khamene'i, the president of the republic, has denounced the Zionist aggression against Lebanon. He said no other Islamic country has denounced this aggression more vigorously than the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria.

During his reception yesterday of a group of clergymen assigned to guide pilgrims, he referred to the Majlis speaker's call to each Islamic country to send a regiment of its military forces to defend Lebanon. He said: If these forces had been sent, would the belligerent forces in the region have accepted the cease-fire? Nonetheless, in our view it is unnecessary to accept the cease-fire. Fighting should continue because the outcome of a cease-fire is much worse than the current situation.

Denouncing any haggling with the Zionist entity, President Khamene'i said the Islamic countries will receive worse blows if they confront such conspiracies with haggling and submissive solutions. The president added that he is sorry for the savage massacre to which the deprived Lebanese Muslims and the homeless Palestinians are being exposed by the occupation of the Zionist entity.

Referring to the tyranny which Jordan's Shah Husayn exercised when he banished the Palestinians from Jordan, President Khamene'i said: If the Islamic countries had responded to our call and had sent forces to support the people of southern Lebanon and the homeless Palestinians, the Zionist entity would have never been able to launch such attacks today. We announce that the Islamic Republic of Iran will send ten times the forces these countries send. The struggling Muslim Iranian forces are in the vanguard of forces on the fronts of war against the Zionist entity.

Referring to the great interest of the world's peoples in Iran's Islamic revolution, President Khamene'i said: The world wants to hear the call of our revolution to know that this revolution, despite all international pressures exercised against it, is not ready to shun its principles or divert from them. Khamene'i also said many of those who do not believe in the role of religion, who lead the Islamic countries today and who loudly speak of Islam do not really believe that Islam has a role in the world today.

Addressing clergymen in charge of guiding pilgrims, the president said: During this year's pilgrimage, you should brief the world's Muslim peoples on the sublime Islamic values which have been achieved thanks to the victory of the Islamic provisions. He said the rituals of pilgrimage of the Islamic Iranian people should be able to spread the new ideas and thoughts of the world's Muslims further and further.

RAFSANJANI ON IRANIAN FORCES IN LEBANON, SYRIA

LD172022 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jun 82

[Excerpts] According to IRNA, a large number of Tabriz Islamic association members met this afternoon with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis. Tabriz deputies to the Majlis were also present and Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed the audience.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Our nation proved its competence both before and after the success of the Islamic revolution. What is important is our ability to maintain our competence, our worth and our sincerity in a manner by which we would neither be denied our revolutionary pride and victory nor allow the revolution's problems and clashes to defeat us.

Referring to Iran's decision to send its troops to Syria to fight against the Zionist regime, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: A cease-fire was due to take place in Lebanon, just as on similar occasions when Israel embarked upon a surprise offensive; then it declared another cease-fire in order to take the next step a few years later. But the presence of our forces in Syria and Lebanon confused all Israel's designs and calculations. The presence of our forces also gave the countries neighboring Lebanon, as well as the Palestinians and other Muslim forces in Lebanon, a fresh heart, and the new situation confused the enemies of Islam.

Since the day our forces arrived in Syria the situation has changed. That is, the name of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its youth have such a reputation that according to Syrian and Lebanese assertions, the value of the few planeloads of Iranian combatants is far more than if 10 divisions had come from the Arab countries.

The Majlis speaker added: Your country, due to its sacrifices, has changed dramatically, because during the rule of the defunct shah, Iran was an associate of Israel. The shah and his relatives were among the world's most important supporters of Israel. Our market, oil and all other potentials were in the service of Israel and the United States.

Nevertheless, in the course of a short time, our young have become revolutionized, to the extent of scaring the United States and Israel; our younger generation has been transformed into a volcanic force at the service of the revolution.

Referring to the numerous problems created for the Islamic Republic by our enemies and the way our people have managed to remove these difficulties, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: After 20 months of the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran, we are now in full control, and the hearts of the reactionaries of the region are shaking and anxious to know what will be our next step. During this period we have been able to revive our economy, halted inflation, resumed the activities of our factories and (?housed), to the best of our ability, 2 million war-stricken refugees as well as 1 and 1/2 million refugees from Afghanistan. Our nation is currently racing to reconstruct the war-stricken regions. Such a country with such a nation gains credit in the world and there is not a single country which has been able to solve its problems the way we did; we stand on our own feet and are not prepared to move 1 inch from the revolution's principles, even at the climax of its difficult period.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The Syrian, Palestinian and the Libyan officials have remarked that when Iran announced it would be sending troops to Lebanon, no one believed it. They said a country which had been fighting a war along 800 km of its border while at the same time being under the pressure of economic sanctions could not possibly send its forces beyond its borders.

The presence of our forces and their cry of "God is great" is increasing the morale of the Syrian people, and the atmosphere of the garrison where our dear ones have been stationed has changed, and the Syrian militarymen, by merely observing the conduct of our forces and paying attention to Islam, are changing into Islamic forces.

KHOMAYNI MESSAGE ON RECONSTRUCTION CRUSADE

LD172216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jun 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, special ceremonies marking the anniversary of the establishment of the reconstruction crusade have been held throughout Iran. In Tehran, villagers from various parts of the country wearing traditional dress marked the occasion by staging a march from 7 Tir Square to Enqelab Square.

During an Enqelab Square ceremony, the message sent on the occasion by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was read by Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni. The text of the imam's message is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I congratulate the entire revolutionary and noble people of Iran, all the committed and dedicated strugglers pursuing the aspirations of the Muslim nation of Iran, on the occasion of 17 June, the reconstruction crusade's anniversary.

With the establishment of this valuable organization, our Islamic revolution was able to make its way into distant, deprived regions of the country and achieve, and to take its historical and Islamic mission, despite all plots and barriers, to all points of the country. Truly, the sons of Islam, the dedicated brothers and sisters with their participation in this revolutionary foundation, through their unprecedented sacrifices in the most difficult living conditions and in the hardest geographical regions of the country, have, in such a short time, been able to create so much at all levels for the benefit of Iran's deprived people.

There are quite a few among our strugglers who, on the path to improve the living of the deprived and oppressed people, have been martyred or disabled, and there are quite a few among our brothers and sisters who, in the most difficult conditions, embarked upon cultural and development projects and were martyred in a most ugly way by the Godless minigroups and the materialist hypocrites.

These Godless people well understood that it was these relief workers who planted the revolution's seeds in the villages and that it is through the development of the deprived regions that the deprived villager becomes a soldier and a guardian of his noble and Islamic revolution. The U.S. and its wage-taking mercenaries quickly arrived at the conclusion that it was through the sacred holy war by the sons of Islam that the saplings of the Islamic revolution grow in the remote villages and towns of this territory. It is for the same reason they consider any relief worker defending the revolution, Islam and this Koran to be like a combatant on the battlefield.

The role played by the reconstruction crusade in the war is no less than that of our combatant forces. Our military and Guards Corps commanders have repeatedly confessed that without the role played by the reconstruction crusade, victory would have not been achieved so quickly. One has to confess that the crusade has brought their Islamic revolution the greatest honor, and by committing and dedicating themselves to Almighty God and the faith, they have emerged as the best example for all the committed and Muslim youth of the Islamic Republic. Nowadays, in every corner of the country and in the most remote, deprived villages, one would see the dedicated personnel of the reconstruction crusade who have arrived there well before anyone else. You would see that despite the lack of the necessary means, they, with whatever means they had at their disposal, have made every effort to eliminate [word indistinct], problems, disease and other shortcomings, and in many cases have not spared their lives in order to provide the people with welfare equipment. Every time I meet with the young, energetic and dedicated members of the reconstruction crusade or I hear and see the results of their valuable and living cultural works, through the media, I pray in my heart for their prosperity and success.

Congratulations for what you have done to give Islam and the Islamic revolution such honor. Greetings be upon you for the way you have agreed to face martyrdom in order to realize the aspirations of the Muslim and revolutionary people of Iran, and for the fulfillment of Islam's concepts. I thank you for ignoring our enemies' empty propaganda, any differences in language and cloth, so that nothing prevented you from individual and collective effort.

Now you are witnessing how -- by wearing your traditional costumes, speaking your local dialects, walking hand in hand -- you are participating in such a great and important gathering. I hope the way you have used your material and spiritual means for reconstruction of the country has left you strength enough for reconstructing yourselves and the others, which in my view has priority over any other reconstruction needs. As I have repeatedly said, make reconstruction of the spirit a priority. Thus, with the assistance of God, with the force of faith, your tasks will advance in the best manner and in quickest time so that we can achieve [word indistinct] and lead this country to self-sufficiency and full development as quickly as possible.

May Almighty God desire it. May peace be upon you.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 947

LD171850 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jun 82

[Communique No 947 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday, artillery-fire exchanges between the forces of Islam and Saddam's continued on the southern fronts of the country. The exchange of fire was most intense in the Khorramshahr sector. Our forces, while maintaining their superiority, defended their own positions and installations and returned the enemy fire.

During the past 24 hours, Saddam's forces opened heavy-artillery fire on residential districts of Abadan. Fires began in several parts of the city and 39 citizens were injured.

Sporadic exchanges of fire continued on the western fronts of the country, including in the Meymak, Salehabad, Sumar, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Gilan-e Gharb sectors. Thanks to operations carried out by the combative forces of Islam, one command jeep, several trenches and foxholes, one 106-mm gun, several piles of equipment and several observation posts were destroyed and several Iraqi troops were killed.

Exchanges of fire continued in the Qasr-e Shirin sector, with our forces silencing the enemy fire. Exchanges of fire also continued in the Marivan sector, with our forces having superiority. Our forces opened fire on the enemy military installations in the Toveyleh and Biarreh sectors, inflicting effective blows.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRAQ DEPORTS 700 AFTER IMPRISONMENT, TORTURE

GF170630 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 17 Jun 82

[Text] The Iraqi regime has deported more than 700 Iraqi Muslims after months of imprisonment and torture. They were left in the Iranian-Iraqi border area. The deportees entered Iranian territory after walking for several days.

MOJAHEDIN CLAIM AHMAD KHOMEYNI INJURED 15 JUNE

NC171441 Paris AFP in English 1429 GMT 17 Jun 82

[Text] Paris, 17 Jun (AFP) -- Ahmad Khomeyni, son of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, was wounded Tuesday in Tehran during a clash with Islamic leftist Mojahedin, the Mojahedin-e Khalq movement announced today.

In a communique it said Khomeyni junior was in an armoured car on Mossadeq Avenue and "was not wearing his religious garb".

Ten of his bodyguards were killed in the clash and five wounded while the Mojahedin did not suffer any losses, the communique claimed.

Radio Tehran reported the attack on Tuesday but said the ayatollah's son was not in the vehicle.

NVOI PRAISES EAST, DENIES SOVIET-U.S. COLLUSION

TA172135 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 17 Jun 82

[Unattributed commentary: "Let Us Learn a Lesson From the Bitter Experiences Resulting From the Ploy of the Qotbzadehs"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: As we are aware, these days our homeland's newspapers and mass media are reporting on the work of the international seminar pertaining to the issues that concern national and liberation movements. In the broad and real sense, national and liberation movements constitute such a powerful force in our world that so far, by solidarity and unity with the socialist camp and the great international labor movement, they have been able to fulfil a lofty and determining role in our world in the struggle of captive nations against imperialism, headed by the United States.

In our era and in the various countries of the world, national liberation movements have never been confined within the framework of single and exclusive ideological and religious beliefs, but rather, on the contrary, they comprised and continue to comprise organizations, associations and parties that have various ideas, ideologies and faiths and which have pursued and continue to pursue a single goal, namely, the expulsion of imperialism, the achievement of independence, freedom and national sovereignty and the attainment of a government of justice and law.

We do not have to look very far. These days there is talk everywhere about the aggressions of the criminal Israel and the brave battle of the Palestinian combatants and the Palestine liberation movement against the Israeli and American aggressors. In this same Palestine liberation movement various associations, organizations and societies with different beliefs, faiths and ideologies are united and fighting for a single goal, namely, the liberation of their homeland's soil from the presence of foreign occupiers and the establishment of an independent and free Palestinian government.

For many years these associations and societies that have different religious and ideological beliefs, despite various plots by imperialism and Zionism carried out under various guises and by different elements, have fought and are fighting Israel and America in a unified manner within the framework of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In our world if we truly and seriously want to talk about national liberation movements it is difficult to find a national liberation movement in a developing and captive country in which progressive, national and religious organizations, associations and parties have not participated collectively. This is the reality of our era and one of the undeniable characteristics of liberation movements.

The reality is -- and experience has repeatedly confirmed this fact -- that in any country a national liberation movement can only triumph in the struggle against despotism and imperialism when it encompasses all struggling and revolutionary religious and nonreligious organizations, parties, associations and groups.

It is not without reason that imperialism and reaction have always strived to prevent the formation in one country or another of a national liberation movement within the context of alliance and unity of deed and expression of all true revolutionary forces, whether religious or nonreligious.

One of the methods employed by colonialism and imperialism in preventing the cohesion of the national liberation movement in this or that country is the creation of ideological and religious differences. Under the pretext that revolutionary parties and organizations which have different views are pagan and apostate, and that their cooperation with religious people and the revolutionary clergy in a single front and for the sake of a common aim is impossible, imperialist elements have always strived actually to prevent their unity and struggle in a unified national liberation movement. This is the bitter and painful experience of life.

In the past some of the liberation movements suffered fatal blows as a result of these same acts by the mass media and the mercenary imperialist ideologues. Indeed if today in a world in which so many bitter experiences of colonialism and imperialism are before our eyes, certain persons continue to insist on testing that which has already been tested, these persons are either unaware of what is going on in the world or they have a motive.

One does not expect the pseudoclergy, who are the implementors of the plans of U.S. imperialism and its allies, or the associates of the large landowners and major capitalists to take any step toward the cohesion of national liberation movements.

We are addressing those whose anti-imperialism is not in doubt but who, because of a lack of complete information and due to the impact of the intimations of imperialist mass media and these same pseudoclergy and court preachers, do not have a realistic assessment and judgment about national liberation movements and their actual allies in our world.

One should give a convincing reply to this question: Who other than socialist countries, and above all the Soviet Union, and the great international labor movement and national liberation movements are the real and actual allies of the same Palestine liberation movements and the countries of the steadfastness front -- about whom we make so much of our solidarity -- in the face of Israel's and world-devouring America's aggression and crime? Which government other than the Soviet Union, and according to the gentlemen "the East," defended and continues to defend the Palestine liberation movement from the moral, military and economic standpoint against Israel's and America's aggression?

The leaders of the Palestine liberation movement themselves and the countries of the steadfastness front explicitly acknowledge and confirm this fact, but at the same time there are certain persons in our country who, contrary to all moral, human and Islamic mores, put forward the absurd and ridiculous claim that allegedly Israel's aggression on Lebanon as well is the result of Soviet-U.S. collusion.

This is precisely the same as the nonsense by the dregs of the counterrevolution who say that, for example, the leaders of our revolution and our Islamic government were brought to power by the Americans themselves with a specific plan. Where is the human and Islamic ethics about which they keep talking?

Or for instance, in connection with this same international seminar, they say: Do not believe that the East is better than the West; if you are struggling against imperialism do not rely on the East and vice versa. Namely, they place the fraternal and human cooperation of the East, that is, socialist countries and foremost of all the Soviet Union, with nations that are struggling against U.S. imperialism on the same level with the unequal, dependant and plundering relations of the United States with these nations.

How does this claim conform with reality and with the standards of Islamic ethics? Why do you mislead public opinion, and why do you not want to learn a lesson from the bitter experiences resulting from the plots and ploys of the Qotbzadehs and Bani-Sadr?

BRIEFS

ENVOY TO PDRY -- Hasan Aminian, the first ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the PDRY, has submitted his credentials to PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. [Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Jun 82 GF]